

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 AEC-07 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FEAE-00 FPC-01 INR-07

INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 SAM-01 OES-05

SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-01 CEQ-01 COA-01

EPA-04 IO-10 NSF-02 EURE-00 /107 W
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P 131225Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 0743

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, SW

SUBJECT: STORAGE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IN ROCK CAVERNS

REF: LETTER FROM SENATOR MUSKIE TO EUR/NE PAUL CANNEY,
JANUARY 10.

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED FROM ARNE HANSON, HEAD OF DIVISION,
STATENS NATURARDSVERK (NATIONAL SWEDISH ENVIRONMENT PROTEC-
TION BOARD) FEBRUARY 10, FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

A. ALTHOUGH UNDERGROUND ROCK CAVERNS HAVE BEEN USED
TO STORE OIL IN SWEDEN FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS AND ARE IN
COMMON USE TODAY, METHOD HAS CAUSED NO SERIOUS CONTAMINATION
OF GROUND WATER,SO FAR AS HANSON KNOWS.

B. SWEDES EMPLOY TWO SYSTEMS FOR STORING OIL IN
UNDERGROUND CAVERNS. METHOD MOST OFTEN USED NOW IS BASED ON
CONSTANT, LOW WATER LEVEL WITHIN CAVERN; EVEN WHEN OIL IS
PUMPED OUT, SAME LOW WATER LEVEL IS MAINTAINED. UNDER THIS
SYSTEM GROUND WATER THAT LEAKS INTOCAVERN MUST BE PUMPED OUT,
BUT, HANSON SAID, ONLY ABOUT 100 CUBIC METERS OF WATER A DAY
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NEED BE REMOVED FROM A CAVERN STORING, FOR EXAMPLE 100,000

CUBIC METERS OF OIL.

C. SECOND METHOD DEPENDS ON MOVABLE WATER LEVEL WITHIN CAVERN. WHEN OIL IS PUMPED IN, WATER IS PUMPED OUT AND VICE VERSA, THE CHAMBER BEING KEPT CONSTANTLY FILLED WITH SOME COMBINATION OF OIL AND WATER. MOVABLE WATER-LEVEL METHOD RESULTS IN LESS EVAPORATION AND LESS RISK OF EXPLOSION THAN STABLE WATER-LEVEL METHOD. HOWEVER, IT PRESENTS PROBLEMS OF POLLUTION TREATMENT TO PREPARE ENORMOUS QUANTITIES OF WATER FOR DISCHARGE WHEN CAVERN IS FILLED WITH OIL.

D. BOTH METHODS RESULT IN SLIGHT LOWERING OF GROUND WATER OUTSIDE CAVERN, BUT NO SERIOUS LOWERING OF GROUND-WATER LEVEL HAS BEEN REPORTED.

2. HANSON HAS INDICATED TO EMBASSY HIS WILLINGNESS TO ANSWER FURTHER QUESTIONS FROM MAINE AUTHORITIES. ADDRESS OF STATENS NATURVARDSSVERK IS: FACK, S-171 20 SOLNA 1, SWEDEN. TELEPHONE NUMBER IS 08/98 18 00.

3. HANSON MENTIONED THAT AB VAGFORBATTRINGAR (ABV) AND WIKAB INDUSTRIKONSULT AB, BOTH IN STOCKHOLM, AS WELL AS SKANSK CEMENTGJUTERIET, HAVE PUBLISHED BROCHURES ON CONSTRUCTION OF OIL STORAGE CAVERNS. EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED AVAILABLE LITERATURE FROM ABV AND WIKAB AND WILL POUCH TO EUR/NE. STRAUSS-HUPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STORAGE, PETROLEUM PRODUCTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STOCKH00743
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750052-0807
From: STOCKHOLM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750244/aaaabnmq.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAY 2003 by RuthemTJ>; APPROVED <22 JAN 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STORAGE OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS IN ROCK CAVERNS
TAGS: ENRG, SW
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006